IMAGE EVALUATION
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Israel

In an interview broadcast by IDF radio 7 May, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres denied Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's accusation that the Labor Party is prepared to negotiate with the PLO, and he stressed that the Alignment "unequivocally" opposes inviting the PLO to an international conference. Israel will not attend a conference if the PLO is invited without its consent, and then there will be no conference, he said.

A *Davar* report the same day disclosed that the director general of the Foreign Ministry has reached agreement with "Jordanian elements" on an "interim arrangement plan" for a joint Israeli-Jordanian administration of the occupied territories pending a final settlement. The plan envisages the stationing of Jordanian police in East Jerusalem and a halt to Israeli settlement activities in the territories. A senior Likud source cited by Jerusalem radio stated that the Likud views the agreement as an "inordinate concession."

Egypt

Abu Basha Attack — Muslim fundamentalists claimed responsibility for an attempt to assassinate former Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha in Cairo 6 May, according to press reports cited by AFP. MENA noted that Abu Basha's condition has improved under hospital treatment.

PLO Relations — In an *Al-Mustaqbal* interview cited by MENA, President Husni Mubarak said his "special appreciation" of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was the major reason for the "limiting" of Egypt's reaction to events at the Algiers PNC. The opposition paper *Al-Wafd* criticized Mubarak's policy on the PLO in a 30 April report which held that "the Egyptian Government alone is responsible for the deterioration in relations between Cairo and the PLO." By withdrawing from the PNC the Egyptian delegation "abandoned" 'Arafat and left him in a "very critical" position, *Al-Wafd* contended.

Exchange Rate Unification — The prime minister told Egyptian residents in Amman that the government's plan to unify the three different exchange rates for the Egyptian pound into a single rate will guarantee them a fair exchange rate for remitting their earnings, MENA reported.

Sudan

A small civilian airliner was shot down near Malakal by a SAM-7 missile 5 May, SUNA reported, adding that 13 people were killed, including 2 European crew members. A civil aviation official noted that flights to the south have been temporarily suspended. According to the SPLA's clandestine radio, the SPLA air defense unit operating around Malakal claimed credit for downing the plane. An SPLM-SPLA spokesman announced that air defenses near "strategic towns" have been improved, and he reiterated a "stern warning" against violating airspace controlled by the rebels.

Iran-Iraq War

A military statement cited by IRNA announced that Iranian forces "crushed" an Iraqi counterattack in the "Karbala'-10" area. The Iraqis suffered a "large number" of casualties and the loss a helicopter carrying munitions.

Iraqi warplanes carried out a nighttime attack on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast, according to a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

In remarks reported by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared that Iran will not retreat from its Gulf policy of "an eye for an eye." He reiterated that Kuwait remains vulnerable even "under the superpowers' flag."

Iraq-Syria

The pumping of Iraqi oil across Syrian territory to the port of Tartus will resume "very soon" as a result of Jordanian efforts, according to diplomatic sources cited by Amman's *Akhbar al-Usbu'*. The Jordanian weekly said this is the first step toward the restoration of understanding between the two countries.

In a related development, Kuwait's *Al-Qabas* reported that the reactivation of the Iraqi-Syrian pipeline was one of the topics discussed during the secret talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. The *Al-Qabas* report, which was cited by KUNA, also revealed that the two leaders agreed to end the hostile media campaign between their countries.

Lebanon

Lebanese Forces leader Samir Ja'ja' said he is "astonished" at the hesitation in accepting Prime Minister Rashid Karami's resignation and asserted that there should be "no difficulty" in choosing a new prime minister, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. According to Voice of National Resistance radio, Karami has laid down eight conditions for reversing his decision, including the stipulation that President Amin al-Jumayyil must submit new proposals for national reconciliation.

Libya

Talks in Moscow — Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had a "friendly" conversation during which they stressed the need for a political solution to the Chadian conflict and "condemned the heightening of the anti-Libyan campaign," TASS reported. The two sides also attached importance to strengthening the "interaction" between "advanced" Arab countries and the PLO.

Westerners Missing — Two Belgians and an American, who arrived in Benghazi on a private yacht 14 February, have been missing since 1 March, according to a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by AFP. The spokesman noted that while there is no proof that the three are in Libya, the craft is still moored at Benghazi.

PDRY

In a speech carried by Aden radio, Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Council of Ministers, cautioned against believing that the discovery of oil in commercial quantities will provide immediate solutions to economic problems. Recalling the "euphoria" that followed the announcement, he declared that the country must utilize this new resource with "political vision" and emphasized the importance of developing and rationalizing basic sectors like agriculture.

Abu Nidal Group

Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, stated in an *Al-Qabas* interview cited by KUNA that a shift has occurred in his group's policy, but it has not given up clandestine action. Noting that he is being sought by the CIA, Al-Banna said that he had "fallen into the nets of its machinery but had managed to overcome it."

The Istanbul paper *Hurriyet* reported that six members of the Abu Nidal organization have entered Turkey with the intention of rescuing imprisoned Jordanians and Palestinians.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Decree on Debts Incurred by Returnees Issued

LD052252 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 May 87

[Decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council concerning the forgiving of returnees' debts on taxes, utility bills, interest on loans, and fines]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Article 44 of the DRA Basic Principles and Statement issued by the extraordinary session of the DRA Revolutionary Council about national reconciliation dated 31 December 1987, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council approves the following:

Article 1: The DRA subjects who return to the country through the process of national reconciliation, once their return is approved by the Department for the Return of Compatriots to the Country, are exempted from paying building tax and electricity, water, telephone, telex, and post boxes' charges, owed by them from their date of emigration up to their return to the country.

Article 2: The DRA subjects who return to the country through the process of national reconciliation, once their return is approved by the Department for the Return of Compatriots to the Country, are exempted from paying interest on the bank loans and the fines owed by them from their date of emigration up to 1 year after their return.

Article 3: The DRA subjects who return to the country through the process of national reconciliation, once their return is approved by the Department for the Return of Compatriots to the Country, will pay the bank loans owed by them from their date of return to the country up to 1 year and in the event of agreement by the respective bank up to another 6 months.

Article 4: Debts arising from building taxes, and electricity, water, telephone, telex, and post boxes' charges on that property put under state security or nationalized, should be paid by the department or institute utilizing the property up to the date of restitution to the returnee.

Article 5: Debts arising from building taxes, and electricity, water, telephone, telex, and post boxes' charges on that property used by person or persons, is to be paid by that person or persons using the property up to the date of restitution of the property to the returnee.

Article 6: The heirs of those subjects of the DRA who died prior to return or during the return to the country will benefit from the advantages of this decree.

Article 7: This decree comes into force from the date of approval and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Haji Mohammed Chamkani, acting president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

Seismology Institute Records Earthquake 5 May

LD061639 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] The DRA Academy of Sciences Seismology Institute reports that last night, 5 May, a severe earthquake was felt around Kabul at 2018. The epicenter was located 272 kms northeast of the Academy of Sciences Seismology Center. The force of the earthquake at its epicenter was 5.5 on the Richter scale.

In Kabul, the force was registered at 5.5.

Karachi Reports on Recent Mujahidin Operations

BK061527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have inflicted heavy casualties on Soviet-Kabul regime troops in fierce fighting in Takhar Province, according to reports. In another operation in the provincial headquarters of Badakhshan, the mujahidin killed more than 10 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. The mujahidin are also reported to have attacked and destroyed a power station in Baghlan Province.

Meanwhile, the Soviet-Kabul regime troops are constantly attacking villages in northern Afghanistan, inflicting heavy loss of life and property on innocent people.

'Heavy Fighting' in Nangarhar

BK070614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, heavy fighting has continued for the last 8 days between the Afghan mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul troops in the Nangahar Province. The reports say the fighting started in many areas of the province after a big offensive by Soviet-Kabul troops against the mujahidin. A large number of Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition destroyed during the fighting.

Rabbani Says USSR Creating Disunity in Alliance

BK041827 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
29 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, April 28 -- The Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan chief Burhanuddin Rabbani has opined that the Soviet Union had purposely brought up the issue of ex-King Zahir Shah's return to power to sow seeds of disunity in the ranks of the Afghan Mujahideen.

Addressing a congregation in the Eidgah Mosque Peshawar on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Saur Revolution in Afghanistan, he said the Russians had stepped up their activities to create rifts in the seven-party alliance of Islamic unity of Afghan Mujahideen in the wake of the unprecedented unity displayed by them on Jan 17 in Charsadda Rend rally this year.

Prof Rabbani maintained that there were only two groups involved in the ongoing ideological battle in Afghanistan -- those waging a jihad and Russian agents who were entrenched in power. He said there was no 'third person' or 'third party' which could form a neutral government in Afghanistan. He reiterated that only establishment of an Islamic government by the Mujahideen could pave the way for solution of the Afghan dispute.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan chief debunked Russian propaganda that they wanted to leave Afghanistan by pointing out that the Soviet Union was still bringing new troops and was constructing a bigger airport near Jalalabad. He reiterated his party's unflinching support to the seven-party alliance and the proclamation by the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen on Jan 17. Thanking Pakistan, Iran and other Islamic states for supporting the Mujahideen Prof Rabbani however, made it clear that no one had the right to speak on their behalf or decide about their future.

Besides Prof Rabbani, the meeting was addressed by a number of Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan activists. Revolutionary poems and songs were sung on the occasion.

Death Sentence Maximum Punishment for Bombings

BK0617[illegible] Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] The government has announced maximum punishment of death sentence for bomb explosions endangering life. The Explosions Punishment Act of 1908 and the Explosives Act of 1884 have been amended to provide for this maximum punishment. An official handout says the minimum punishment for such offenses has been fixed at 5 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

Under the amended law, government's sanction will not be necessary for prosecution. Any person causing explosion with an intent of committing offense may be punished with imprisonment ranging from 3 to 7 years, compared to 1 year's imprisonment awarded previously. Under the amended act, any person who illegally manufactures, uses, or exports explosives may be imprisoned from 2 to 10 years along with a fine. Punishment for transport and possession of explosives has also been substantially increased under the amended law.

The handout says the minerals, gas, and oil corporation, the Chittar cement factory, the (Takerhat) limestone project, the Geological Survey Department, and the Shell petroleum development are the five organizations eligible for possessing, using, and carrying explosives.

Dhaka Claims India Preventing Chakmas Return

BK0514[illegible] Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 5 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The return of the Chakma tribal refugees from their camps in the Indian State of Tripura is being unnecessarily complicated by raising extraneous issue not related to the return of Chakmas. A number of Chakma tribals had crossed over to India at the instigation of some tribal miscreants whose primary concern is is not to allow normalcy being restored in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

India and Bangladesh do not agree on the number of Chakma tribal refugees who have crossed over to India. Bangladesh has identified their numbers at around 28,000, while India insists their number would be over 48,000. Bangladesh and India had agreed after a protracted negotiation to begin the repatriation of the Chakma tribals from 10th January this year. When all arrangements had been made by the Bangladesh side to take back the tribal refugees, the miscreants indulged in provocative acts to prevent the return of the Chakmas.

The Indian allegation that conditions are not favorable to the return of the Chakmas to live inside Bangladesh territory is is unfounded and baseless. There was a burst of gunshots at the Indian side to intimidate the Chakma returners. The deputy commissioner of Khagrachuri, in fact, wanted to meet the tribals on the Indian side of the border, but his efforts were frustrated by the miscreants who want to keep alive the issue. The Indian allegation that tribals are being evacuated for the rehabilitation of the Bangladeshi settlers was described as baseless and motivated by the Government of Bangladesh [as heard].

Bangladesh can justifiably boast of communal harmony in the country. There has been no communal clashes. People of all religions, castes, and creed are living in perfect harmony with no discrimination against a particular religious group. All citizens are equal in the eye of laws and they are free to settle anywhere in Bangladesh like people in any other independent and sovereign country. While India is insisting that over 48,000 Chakmas have crossed over to India, it has so far failed to furnish the list of the people. Chakmas, who are leading a miserable life in the refugee camps in India, are willing to come back to their own hearths and homes to lead a normal life, but they are being stopped from doing so by a handful of miscreants who do not want the Chakmas to return.

The Government of Bangladesh is pledge-bound to take back the Chakma tribals who had crossed over to India. The Government of Bangladesh has also said that all the returners will be rehabilitated. The Government of Bangladesh is even willing to allow the Chakma leaders to visit Chittagong Hill Tracts to satisfy themselves about the conditions prevailing here. But Bangladesh Government would not agree to any condition being attached to such visit. The tribals are leading a wretched life in their Indian camps. Their woes can clearly be imagined. The Chakmas who have been able to return to Bangladesh, evading strict vigilance around refugee camps in India, are carrying woeful memories with them. Bangladesh has already let India know that it is willing to accept the visit by Chakma leaders to Chittagong Hill Tracts, but it would not allow Indian team, representatives of the international mass media, or relief agency to visit Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The news carried by All India Radio saying that Chakmas would allow the visit of an international agency to ensure their safety was misleading, motivated, and baseless. In any case, no one has the right to play with the fate of the innocent people. Let India and Bangladesh join in an effort to see that Chakma refugees return from their camps in India. If the two sides join in an honest effort to resolve the problem, it must not take long to settle the issue.

Spokesman Denies PRC Claims About Border Situation

BK061606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] India has categorically stated that it has no intention of seeking a conflict with China. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi today that India has always emphasized that peace must be maintained along the India-China border and any disputes that arise should be settled through peaceful negotiations.

The statement comes in response to an allegation by the Chinese Foreign Ministry that India had amassed troops on the border between the two countries and that Indian troops have crossed the boundary. The spokesman said it is not our intention to mass troops or conduct any belligerent exercises, and such accusations are baseless and without foundation.

Indian troops have been given strict instructions not to cross the international border. Nor does India covet any part of Chinese territory. India has repeatedly stressed that it is ready to enter into talks with China on the border issue.

The external affairs minister had recently stated in parliament that India will welcome the holding of the eighth round of border talks with China.

The spokesman expressed the hope that the Chinese Government will do nothing to vitiate the atmosphere or disturb peace along the India-China border.

Minister Criticizes U.S. Arms Supply to Pakistan

BK061258 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] India has told the United States that the massive supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan poses a great threat to India's security and adversely affects the security environment in the region.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in the Lok Sabha today that India does not agree with the U.S. perception that these arms are being supplied to Pakistan to meet the threat from Afghanistan.

Past experience shows that whenever Pakistan received arms from the United States they were used against India.

Replying to a special discussion on India-U.S. relations initiated by Mr Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M, the minister said we also do not agree with the United States that India and Pakistan should discuss the nuclear issue as it is not a bilateral but a global issue.

Taking part in the discussion, members from both sides criticized the United States for turning a blind eye to the acquisition of a nuclear bomb by Pakistan, while it wanted India to sign the nonproliferation treaty. Many members wanted India to exercise its nuclear option, but others counselled patience.

Further on Lok Sabha Discussion

BK061700 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] India has told the United States that a massive supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan would seriously and gravely affect the security environment in the region. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in the Lok Sabha today that during his recent visit, he conveyed to the U.S. Administration India's strong feelings and serious concern over this development. He said the U.S. leaders have taken note of our concern and let us see what they do in the next few weeks. The United States proposes to give a $4.2 billion asaistance package to Pakistan, 43 percent of which would be made up of armament.

Mr Natwar Singh was replying to a special discusion on India-U.S. relations raised by Mr Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M, and Mr Zainur Bashir, Congress-I. He said India deeply values its friendship with the United States and would like it to improve.

Mr Natwar Singh told the house that India does not agree with the U.S. perception that arms are being supplied to Pakistan to meet the threat from Afghanistan. The past experience shows that whenever Pakistan received arms from the United States, these were used against India.

Mr Natwar Singh said the U.S. policy to view Pakistan's nuclear program as bilateral or regional question between India and Pakistan is not only short-sighted but dangerous. He said India looks at it as a global issue. The minister informed the members that he took up with the U.S. leaders the nuclear program of Pakistan. The U.S. Administration does not believe that Pakistan has a nuclear weapon program even when the Pakistan president and a top nuclear scientist of that country have said so.

Mr Natwar Singh said India desires to have friendly relations with Pakistan and her other neighbors based on mutual trust. At the same time we are not a country that can be bought, bullied or browbeaten; if the situation arises, we will face it, he declared.

Referring to the U.S. move to make India sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], he said we will not be pushed into signing the NPT, which is discriminatory.

Taking part in the discussion, members from both sides criticized the United States for turning a blind eye to the aquisition of a nuclear bomb by Pakistan, while it wanted India to sign the nonproliferation treaty. Many members wanted India to exercise its nuclear option, but others counselled patience. The U.S. assistance to Sri Lanka also came in for criticism.

Rocket Successfully Launched From Sriharikota 4 May

BK030308 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] A RH-560 rocket was successfully launched from Sriharikota yesterday. An official release said in Madras that several experiments were conducted during the 9 minute flight of the rocket which attained an altitude of 300 km. It carried a radio sensor to measure the altitude.

Gandhi Sees No Destabilization in Technology Transfer

BK070950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, says no country can destabilize our existing system under the cover of technology transfer. Intervening during question hour in the Rajya Sabha today, he said strict controls are exercised while concluding agreements for these transfers. He maintained that the agreement with the Soviet Union on this will open up new areas of cooperation in industrial technology.

Affirms Safety of Atomic Plants

BK061457 Delhi IST Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi has assured Lok Sabha that government is taking adequate care of safety factors at atomic power plants to prevent any accidents. Replying to supplementary during question hour prime minister said that atomic power plants are functioning well and there is no need to worry.

Replying to main question about the Narora atomic power project Minister for Science and Technology and Atomic Energy Mr R. Narayanan said life of the Narora project is 25 years but it is expected to continue to generate power safely over a longer period. He assured house that government has no intention to stop work. Precautionary measures are being taken to ensure its safety.

Second Fast Breeder Reactor Planned for 1990

BK071010 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] The construction of the second fast breeder test reactor at Kalapakkam will be taken up within 3 years. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, stated this in the Rajya Sabha today during question hour. He said France has been giving enriched uranium for the Tarapur atomic reactor according to an earlier agreement. Indian scientists are working on French technology and have developed an alternative fuel at Kalpakkam, he added.

Replying to a supplementary, the minister informed the house that currently India does not have any agreement on nuclear collaboration with any country. However, discussions on this are going on with friendly countries.

Vice President Said To Offer Help to Tamils

BK070729 Hong Kong AFP In English 0709 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 7 (AFP) -- India will do its utmost to help Sri Lankan Tamils, a radical Sri Lankan Tamil leader quoted Indian Vice President Ramaswamy Venkataraman as saying here Thursday. "We will do our utmost to ameliorate the condition of the Tamils," Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF) General Secretary M.K. Eelaventhan quoted Mr Venkataraman as saying after a 45-minute meeting. Mr Venkataraman, a Tamil, is widely tipped to be the candidate of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party in July presidential elections.

Mr Eelaventhan, here to canvas support for the Tamil separatist campaign in Sri Lanka, also met the vice president for about 45 minutes Wednesday. He had earlier called on External Affairs Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari.

Mr Venkataraman said India would do "something soon" on the Sri Lankan situation, but did not elaborate, Mr Eelaventhan said. India has been acting as mediator between Colombo and Sri Lankan Tamil militants to end an ethnic conflict which has claimed more than 6,000 lives on the island since 1983.

Spokesman on Indian-Afghan Talks, Seizure of Trawlers

BK061608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 May 87

[Excerpts] Pakistan has expressed concern over the visit of the Indian external affairs minister, N.D. Tiwari, to Afghanistan at a time when violations of Pakistani airspace have multiplied and the bombing of Pakistan's territory by the Kabul regime has escalated. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that it will only encourage the Kabul regime whose agents have intensified sabotage activities in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

The spokesman told newsmen that Pakistan has been informed of the full details of the talks, especially on the Afghanistan question, which were held 2 weeks ago between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Moscow. Pakistan understands that the foreign ministers of these two countries held a detailed exchange of views, with each side reiterating its respective position and desire for an early settlement of the Afghanistan problem. But no apparent progress has been made in this direction, he added.

About the seizure of each other's fishing trawlers, the spokesman said Pakistan is in touch with the Indian Government on this issue. He said countries having adjoining economic zones are expected to negotiate the demarcation of their respective economic zones in line with the law of the sea convention. Pakistan and India should hold early negotiations for the demarcation of such zones.

The spokesman added that a Pakistani trawler is also reported to have been seized in Oman and the issue has been taken up with the Omani Government.

French Foreign Minister Arrives in Islamabad 6 May

BK061223 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] The French foreign minister, Monsieur Jean-Bernard Raimond, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 2-day visit. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he would discuss with his Pakistani counterpart bilateral relations and international issues, including the question of Afghanistan and East-West relations.

To a question, he said he would also discuss Pakistan's claim for compensation for nonfulfillment of an agreement by France for the construction of a reprocessing plant. He expressed the hope that every effort will be made to find a final solution of the issue and promote the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Holds Talks With Yaqub Khan

BK061706 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Formal round of talks between the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the visiting French foreign minister, Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, was held in Islamabad this afternoon.

The two sides exchanged views on regional situation and international issues of common concern. Prospects for further bilateral cooperation in various fields were also reviewed.

Our diplomatic representative understands that the French delegation was also apprised of the latest situation in Afghanistan and the recent violations by Kabul regime aircraft of Pakistan's airspace.

The Pakistan side included the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani; foreign secretary; and other senior officials. The French delegation included the French ambassador and head of the Asian affairs.

Former Air Chief Criticizes AWACS Acquisition

BK051649 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] A former Pakistan Air Force chief, Air Marshal Zafar Chaudhary, says aquisition of AWACS by Pakistan will reduce the prospects of improvement in the India-Pakistan relations.

He said Pakistan's relations with its other neighbors -- Iran and Afghanistan -- are also bound to worsen.

Air Marshal Chaudhary said Americans have a vested interest in Pakistan acquiring AWACS, as this would provide them a foothold in the region.

NEPAL

RISING NEPAL Marks Anniversary of U.S. Ties

BK0213251 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 26 Apr 87 p 2

[Editorial "Nepal-U.S. Ties"]

[Text] The celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and the United States of America is an important milestone in the history of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. In fact, His Majesty the King has, in a message to the U.S. President, Mr. Ronald Reagan on the occasion, rightly observed that over the four decades since the establishment of the formal diplomatic relations between Nepal and the United States, friendship based on mutual appreciation, understanding and fruitful cooperation has developed steadily in a spirit of cordiality. The American President in his message to His Majesty the King sent on the same occasion amply highlighted these relations saying that despite geographical distance and cultural difference the two countries have cooperated in a wide range of common subjects "including trade, protection of the environment, exchange programmes and international peacekeeping." These relations of cooperation and friendship between Nepal and the United States have indeed developed steadily through the past four decades.

Mutual exchange of visits at different levels have made great contributions to further these mutually cooperative relations. Prominent among these visits was the state visit by Their Majesties the King and Queen to the United States in December 1983. It was during this visit that President Reagan extended the U.S. support to Nepal's proposal that it be declared a Zone of Peace. This a part, the two state visits by His late Majesty King Mahendra to the United States in 1960 and 1967 were the other landmarks in the history of Nepal-U.S. relations. The then Vice-President of the United States, Mr Spiro T. Agnew also visited Nepal in 1970. Besides these visits there have been constant exchanges of visits between the two countries at different levels, which have not only contributed to increase cooperation but resulted in greater understanding of each other.

The other aspect of Nepal-U.S. relations is the cooperation between the two countries in the field of economic development of Nepal. If the United States is one of the most advanced nations of the world, Nepal belongs to the category of the least developed among the developing nations. The United States is one of the major development partners of Nepal. Through the U.S. aid and the Peace Corps, America has been a "steadfast" partner in Nepal's development efforts, a point President Reagan pointed out in his message. The American assistance to Nepal's development covers various fields including rural development, resources conservation and utilization, integrated rural health and family planning, to mention a few. What has been mentioned above is just an example of fruitful cooperation between the two countries developed by them over the past 40 years.

The past record of steady and successful development of cooperative relations give reasons for confidence that in the future, bilateral relations between Nepal and the United States of America will continue to strengthen and expand to our mutual satisfaction," as was rightly observed by His Majesty the King in the message, President Reagan said, "We have greatly valued your friendship over the past forty years, and look forward, over the coming years, to an even closer partnership." These highest level observations about the relations are clear expressions of the friendship between the two countries. On the basis of the past 40 years of fruitful cooperation between Nepal and the United States, we can be confident that the firm and stable friendship between the two countries would attain never heights of success in the future.

SRI LANKA

No Confidence Motion Against Jayewardene Proposed

BK0603300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Freedom Party leader, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, says a substantive no confidence motion against President Jayewardene is being brought in Parliament charging him on 40 counts.

According to PTI, the motion has been signed by 30 opposition members including those from the Sri Lankan Freedom Party and Mahajana Eksath Party.

Mrs Bandaranaike said her party would be launching a country-wide campaign to dislodge, what she called, the corrupt government of President Jayewardene.

Bandaranaike Criticizes President

BK0511546 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader and the former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has charged that President Jayewardene has no serious interest in finding a solution to the ethnic problem.

Addressing a crowded news conference in Colombo today, she said government is only interested in the continuance of the problem to utilize it for remaining in power by postponing the elections.

Our Colombo correspondent, Pirbon Majumder, reports that Mrs Bandaranaike also charged the Sri Lankan Government with inviting various foreign agencies and mercenaries to fight the so-called terrorism. But, she said, these Israelis and mercenaries do not want to solve the problem.

Mrs Bandaranaike said because of the interference of these agencies the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, where Tamil, Muslim, and Sinhalese have lived peacefully for ages, had become another Lebanon. She said India has tried to help solve this problem, but the involvement of extraneous agencies has made matters worse.

Delhi Notes 'Agitation' Over Jaffna Hospital Closure

BK060336 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Reports from Colombo say that an agitation is being launched to prevent the closure of the Jaffna Hospital. The Sri Lankan Government has already ordered the closure of the 1,000 bed hospital which has been hit by shells several times in the last year. Doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and residents of Jaffna are to hold a big demonstration today against its closure.

Hospital To Be Closed 8 May

BK061221 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] The Jaffna General Hospital will be closed temporarily from Friday, 8 May. The ministry of teaching hospital [as heard] and the Ministry of Health have decided to relocate the patients, staff, and equipment at the (Baiya) Hospital at Point Pedro and at the district hospital, Tellippalai. The government is also willing to provide care for patients at the Green Memorial Hospital at Manipay.

The Jaffna General Hospital, which also functions as a teaching hospital, has been caught into crossfire on several occasions during confrontations between the terrorists and the security forces. Medical students and student nurses will receive their training at the Baiya hospital, Point Pedro, and the district hospital at Tellippalai. However, they would be temporarily accommodated at other teaching institutions if they so desire.

Government Forces Kill 4 Separatists, Raid Bases

BK070939 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0904 GMT 7 May 87

["DANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 07 *(Lanka Puwath)* -- Government troops yesterday killed four separatist terrorists, captured five and destroyed two terrorist bases in separate operations.

Troops raided a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) base in the Trincomalee [words indistinct] yesterday killing three, and captured an AK-47 rifle, 2 AK-47 magazines, one shot gun, a number of No. 36 hand grenades, detonators, explosives and detonator [words indistinct], the Media Center in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*. The base was destroyed.

At Achchankulam near a lagoon in the Mannar District, north western Sri Lanka security forces destroyed an LTTE base and recovered a large fibre glass boat yesterday. Five terrorists were captured.

Meanwhile, a report from Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka states that sporadic mortar fire was directed at the Jaffna Fort security forces camp yesterday. At Navatkuly also in the Jaffna District Government troops on patrol destroyed a terrorist bunker yesterday.

Another report from the Batticaloa District states that government troops killed a terrorist at Oruchcholai in a confrontation with a group of terrorists yesterday. At Valachchenai, eastern Sri Lanka terrorists fired at the Batticaloa-Colombo train last Tuesday; troops fired back. There were no casualties. Two passengers travelling in a bus from Eravur to Vaigolla in eastern Sri Lanka, R.M. Heenbanda and R.A. Premadasa were abducted near the 78th mile post by a group of terrorists last Monday.

More Refugees Return From Southern India

BK070945 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0900 GMT 7 May 87

["DANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 07 *(Lanka Puwath)* -- Large numbers of refugees return daily to Sri Lanka from south India due to the very poor living conditions there.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* today that fifty-one (51) more refugees arrived at the Talaimannar pier in the Mannar District, north western Sri Lanka yesterday in a vallam (boat). There were 17 men, 19 women and 15 children on board. Thirty-two (32) Sri Lankan refugees returned to Sri Lanka last Tuesday. All these refugees are been re-settled in their former homes in the Northern Province.

DAILY NEWS Urges India Not To Support Separatists

BK051518 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
25 April 87 p 4

[Editorial "India's Reactions"]

[Text] India's action in summoning the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] chief spokesman A.S. Balasingham to New Delhi presumably to admonish him and his chief lieutenant on the nature of their latest exploits in Sri Lanka, will in some measure hearten our people.

India has condemned the Habarana and Pettah bombings as insensate killings. In both cases, the victims were defenceless people. The country must acknowledge the ready response of Canada, India, America and Britain among other countries to the traumatic events that were to shatter normal life of the community here.

Their reactions have been the inevitable response of civilised people to the massacre of innocent people just for the sake of creating some impact. India has, as a neighbour, been closely concerned with our troubles. She has offered her good offices to end the violence on our soil. Certainly, a destabilised Sri Lanka cannot be any advantage to India, no matter who is responsible for the unrest here.

But India could certainly give greater significance to her role at this moment, if she took meaningful action to put her position beyond doubt.

Sri Lanka is not inviting any foreign power to take a hand in the fighting. But by the same logic, Sri Lanka naturally cannot acquiesce in any action, open or furtive, by which any foreign power ventures to support any rebellion here.

Plainly enough, those who condemn terrorism would be guilty of an unfriendly act if they supported terrorists against the Sri Lankan State. The people of this island would never welcome any outside participation in the cross-fire. For that reason, precisely, they would like to see India shutting her doors firmly against men who hit here and run back to the safety of the sub-continent.

Nations opposed to terrorism must surely disarm people building up arsenals for use by terrorists no matter on whom the latter propose to unleash their attacks. Like pirates, terrorists are international outlaws.

Thus, it might well be in India's power and, indeed, it might well be her responsibility as a leading nation in the region, to deny the least semblance of support or refuge to those who violate the conscience of mankind.

Nations belonging to the UN must go beyond the point of denouncing apartheid in South Africa. That by itself is commendable. But they must also unequivocally condemn and denounce racism and terrorism closer home as well: positively by confiscating their weapons; by refusing them all shelter. Otherwise, it would be difficult to distinguish friends from Job's comforters.

Musavi on Kuwaiti Ships Sailing Under U.S. Flag

LD061711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 6 May 87

[Excerpts] During the cabinet session today, general events in the country and the region were discussed. Heavy Industries Minister Nabavi then submitted a report on the trip by an Iranian delegation to Turkey. [passage omitted]

At the end of today's cabinet session, in connection with Kuwait's attempt to sail under the flag of the U.S. Navy, Prime Minister Musavi said: If Kuwait thinks it can help Saddam and still remain safe under the superpowers' flag, it is mistaken. Kuwait is so vulnerable that such arrangements cannot help.

He added: The Islamic Republic will not retreat from its declared policies regarding the Persian Gulf under any circumstances. There will be security for all countries or for none. The presence of the big powers' fleets will not weaken our resolve in implementing the "eye for an eye" policy.

Tehran Comments on U.S. Arms Investigations

LD071441 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] Toward the end of this week, the second stage of proceedings by the investigative committees of the U.S. parliaments, which have been established to investigate McFarlane's abortive trip to Tehran, commenced. During this stage of the investigations, which are held openly, important pawns like Robert McFarlane, former chairman of the National Security Council [NSC], will take part.

On the first day of the investigations, in a speech referring to the method of investigations, the chairman of the commission said: Apparently, we had an open policy and a secret one; we told our friends and allies one thing, and did something else.

Following the chairman's speech, another American senator, referring to the issue of Iran, said: We have suffered heavy blows and our nation's reputation has been damaged. The (? relations) between the government and the nation suffered and our policy regarding central America and the Middle East was questioned.

Later in the session, General Secord, former deputy assistant defense secretary in Middle Eastern affairs prior to the Reagan Administration -- and who had been active in the NSC, along with Colonel Oliver North, after Reagan came into power -- on a number of occasions testified to Washington's efforts regarding military support by the Reagan administration to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. In his testimony, he clearly stated that during the period, Reagan had been aware of the dispatch of arms to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Meanwhile, immediately after this testimony, once again, while defending the accuracy of Reagan's remarks, a White House spokesman stressed Reagan's ignorance of the arms dispatch to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. This is while Reagan has constantly attempted to express his gladness at the implementation and continuation of open investigations. However, this pretence of gladness merely had propaganda aspects, and the course of events left Reagan with no other alternative. A show of opposition to the investigations would have only increased the pressure, and resulted in further political isolation. At present, the White House is extremely anxious lest the continuation of the investigations and the publication of some of the confessions would place Reagan in a tragic situation, such as did the publication of the Tower Report.

Meanwhile, the recent remarks made by the chairman of the Senate committee, regarding Reagan's knowledge of the arms dispatch to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, which took place an hour before the start of the investigations [as heard], and other evidence, testify to the fact that the trend of the present struggles will continue for some time. During this time, the Democratic wing will do its utmost to take advantage of the situation, and pave the way to getting their hands on the Presidency.

Hague Court Rules U.S. Should Return Assets

LD061438 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA -- The International Court of The Hague on Tuesday ruled that the U.S. federal reserve bank should immediately return 450 million dollars in frozen Iranian assets to the central bank of the Islamic Republic.

Deputy of Iran's International Legal Services Bureau Mojtabe Mohebbi told IRNA here Wednesday that Iran had filed a suit against the U.S. in The Hague tribunal because of the repeated U.S. violations of the Algiers Accord and its refusal to pay back the frozen Iranian funds under unfounded pretexts.

The Hague tribunal had earlier ruled in favor of Iran and ordered the U.S. to return the Iranian funds. It also recommended that the two sides hold talks on terms of payments and on other relevant technical problems, Mohebbi said. But, Mohebbi added, because the U.S. was reluctant to pay the funds to Iran it suddenly abandoned the second round of talks between the two countries. Iran again referred to The Hague and demanded that the tribunal order the U.S. to return Iranian funds, he added.

The Hague tribunal will also adjudicate a case involving about another 65 million dollars worth of frozen Iranian assets after it finishes investigating Iran-U.S. financial disputes.

Commentary Views Soviet Ambitions in Middle East

NC070920 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 7 May 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Text] The past week witnessed an official declaration by the Soviet Union of its stance vis-a-vis the Iran-Iraq war. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met with an Arab League delegation and stated the Iran-Iraq war can only be ended by a political solution. He thus implied that the sole solution acceptable to Moscow would be one involving nego-

tiations and compromise with the Ba'thist regime. He also stressed that all insistence on the identification of the aggressor should be discarded.

What is really behind this stance on Moscow's part? The fact is that the Soviets, despite paying lip service in their official declaration to the policy of neutrality in the imposed war, have consistently supported and strengthened the Baghdad rulers. It is also true that throughout the course of the imposed war Moscow has been and still is the main purveyor of arms and equipment to Iraq. In addition, the Kremlin's policy has, in practice, been based on economic and political support of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime. Scores of massive industrial projects set up in Iraq by the Russians to further their colonial interests, and the strengthening of their influence by increasing the Baghdad rulers' dependence on them and the renewal of the Moscow-Baghdad treaty obviously confirm this. The real question is: In present circumstances, on the basis of what logic or principle does Moscow affirm that the sole solution acceptable for the termination of the war is a political rapprochement through negotiation? To answer the question, we must take a broader view in order to see the present trend of regional events in perspective. We can then clearly deduce that the Soviet Union's new stance on the imposed war is based on far more than a desire to strengthen Iraq's weakened position. It is aimed at increasing Soviet influence in the Middle East and among the Persian Gulf states.

Eduard Shevardendze's remarks are specifically aimed at implementing this policy, that is, enhancing Soviet influence in the region. But what can be the reason? In the context of the Soviet foreign minister's statement and an analysis of the same, it becomes clear that such statements can affect relations between Iran and the Soviet Union. Hence, the Kremlin should be more careful and cautious about what it says. The fact is that, after 7 years of heroic warfare, the Islamic Republic of Iran has become the undisputed power of the region. The iron resolve of the Iranian nation to continue its sacred defense until final victory has been reinforced. To ignore this reality will definitely not be to the benefit of the Soviets.

Thus, overall experience has proved that such statements cannot deflect us from the path of our hallowed defense. Rather, they increase the risk [preceding word in English] of provoking an appropriate reaction. Furthermore, it should be noted that from Iran's point of view, all efforts to end the Iraqi-imposed war must be based on the identification of the Ba'thist regime as the aggressor. It must include an assessment of the losses and the impeachment of the aggressors and the war criminals. But on the face of it, it appears that Moscow desires a cessation of the war, regardless of its causes or of any chastisement of the aggressor criminals. This is in fact just a mirror image of the stance of the United States and the West. In other words, while the United States is still recoiling from the degradation caused by its attempts to approach the Islamic Republic, the Soviet Union is endeavoring to retrieve its lost influence in the Middle East. Soviet contacts with Egypt and other reactionary Arab countries, which are increasing daily; attempts to strengthen the obsequious PDO faction; Soviet promotion of an international conference on Middle Eastern peace; Petrovskiy's visit to Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, culminating in Shevardendze's statement — all these phenomena are directed toward the same end. Each of them, however incomplete and insignificant, contributes to the overall massive, albeit abstract, picture of a fresh Soviet campaign to extend the Kremlin's influence in the Middle East. The focal point of this growing, but still ambiguous, mosaic will emerge more clearly when we more fully understand the entanglements and subtleties which characterize international politics and when we are able more successfully to coordinate our assessments and analyses of the facts. These facts are being analyzed by the heroic, revolutionary, and vigilant nation of Iran. They have already shattered the existing balance and may, in the not so distant future, reshape the political face of the region.

Kurdish Operations Against 'Mercenaries' Detailed

LD061134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] According to a report of the High Command of the Triple Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, during the past few days the forces of the Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] attacked a group of mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime along the Kani-Muni highway during a series of harassment operations, killing two of them and capturing two others.

According to this report, the KDP forces infiltrated the town of Batufah and succeeded in killing or wounding a group of Iraqi mercenaries in the governorate of the town. During another clash in the Shaykhan region, a bulldozer belonging to the Zionist enemy and several heavy weapons were set ablaze and a number of the Iraqi troops were killed.

The same report indicates that during the past 2 days, 53 armed mercenaries of the Iraqi regime based in (Shilabzir) region, accompanied by their families, surrendered to the KDP forces.

Peshmerga Capture Battalion Headquarters 6 May

LD061900 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 6 IRNA — Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) attacked headquarters of Iraqi Battalion 111 (Sulaib) in Kani Muni-Zakho road, Mosul Province, Wednesday, capturing the headquarters and its seven checkpoints, according to the Joint Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here today.

During the operations, a group of Ba'thist troops were killed among whom were the bodies of Captain 'Abd al-Hamid al-Khattab 'Abdallah and another officer. 40 Other Iraqi soldiers were taken prisoner with 546 enemy troops surrendering themselves to the Muslim combatants, the hqs. said.

An Iraqi helicopter, attempting to provide air support for Ba'thist troops, was shot down by Muslim combatants under the command of IRGC Ramadan hqs, who were supporting the KDP peshmergas in the attack. The seven man crew of the helicopter also died.

The hqs. said that the joint forces destroyed 11 military personnel carriers and loaders, seizing a good amount of enemy weaponry including 200 guns, several wireless sets, a 82 mm mortar

launcher as well as munitions. Muslim forces also destroyed an important bridge connecting Kifri road to Kifri in Diyala Province. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Mojahedin Destroy Army Transportation Center

LD071117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] The High Command of the Triple Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced that the Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin under the command of the Seyyed al-Shohada forces, supported by units from the Ramadan Headquarters, continued their irregular warfare operations inside Iraqi territory and succeeded in inflicting losses and casualities on elements of the Iraqi regime.

In these operations the Iraqi Army's transportation center in the Al-Imarah was blown up and tens of the Zionist enemy's forces were killed or wounded. Also, the Ba'th Party's office and the Security and Intelligence Organization's center in (Al-Mutarrah) was destroyed during the attack by the combatants of Islam, and a number of the Zionist enemy's forces were killed and wounded.

Iraqi Group Claims Attack on Military Train

LD061139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] As a result of an explosion on the Mosul-Baghdad railway line when a military train carrying ammunitions and military personnel was passing, four cars of that train were destroyed. A group of Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries known as the Forces of Martyr Sadr, affiliated with the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party of Iran, accepted responsibility for that explosion. They stated: During these operations which were carried out in a region between Tikrit and Samara a considerable quantity of weapons and ammunition were destroyed and tens of the personnel of the Iraqi Zionist armed forces were killed or wounded.

The report adds that, following those operations the security forces of the Iraqi regime carried out an extensive inspection in Tikrit and Samara and surrounding regions in order to arrest Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,828

LD061602 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 6 (IRNA)—Two cargo ships suspected of carrying goods for Iraq were intercepted and searched in the Strait of Hormuz by Iran's Navy gunboats Tuesday but later were allowed to continue voyage because of having no suspicious cargo aboard.

Announcing the above here Wednesday, the 2828th Joint Staff communique said that an Iraqi vessel which appeared in Khowr 'Abdollah waterway yesterday was forced to return to its hideout when shelled by Iranian artillery fire.

At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy tank, one munitions dump, one heavy engineering vehicle and several bunkers and observation posts were destroyed in the northwestern fronts Tuesday when hit by Iranian artillery fire. Muslim forces of Iran successfully carried out intelligence gathering missions in these fronts.

Iranian gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Tuesday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying at least 10 gun emplacements and one command jeep of theirs. Enemy engineering operations were also checked.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd and Kushk where several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy bunkers demolished.

Iranian artillery fire prevented some Iraqi troops from setting up barricades or repairing their pounded positions in Nahr 'Anbar, Sharhani and Zobeydat, southern fronts, Tuesday, inflicting several casualties on them.

Movements of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked in Samar, western fronts, yesterday, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed

LD071101 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA — An attempted enemy counterattack in Karbala'-10 operational region, northeastern Iraq, was crushed Thursday morning, said a statement of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

The Iraqi forces, added the statement, attempted the counterattack from positions opposite of Qoshan Heights (placename as received) in the region which was repelled by the Muslim forces of Iran.

In the attempted attack, a large number of personnel of two Iraqi infantry battalions and a company were killed or injured. A number of officers and NCOs are among those killed.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi helicopter carrying munitions and reinforcements to back the battered forces was shot and exploded by the anti-air units of the ground forces of IRGC.

The enemy dropped chemical bombs on the region which were neutralized by anti-chemical units of the Muslim forces.